

## Willow Lake Betterment Committee News

Members: Jim Bangasser, Justin Bardell, Adam Breedlove, Larry Frazee, Ron Klint, Martin Oaks

Purpose: To research and implement ways to improve Willow Lake Life.

Focus: For 2021, we have 4 areas of focus including dredging, Geese, Fish and a fountain.

### **Dredging**

We currently have 37,000 cubic yards of material that needs to be removed from the bottom of the lake. Although the water level is not currently effecting navigation, the sediment problem needs to be addressed in the next 5-10 (ideally 7 years) years before the lake turns into a swamp! The cost is upwards of \$500,000 at current prices! That's \$10,000 per association member...yikes!

### **Geese**

According to the Detroit Free Press, "an adult goose poops 2 pounds per bird, per day." Ducks usually poop overnight in their nests while they sleep. Geese poop all day long – you would too after eating 4 pounds of grass each day!

We all have to discourage the goose population here on the lake. Yes, they are fun to watch and listen to all day and night, but they are also contributing to the sediment in the lake. Geese tend to implant on an area meaning they will return to the place they are born as adults. This needs to be discouraged too. We have received a permit from IDNR to oil eggs. The process is fast and easy and does not harm the adults. We coat the eggs with corn oil. Contact ANY member if you have goose nests on your property.

### **Fish**

We usually do a fish survey every couple years. From the last survey, we found a fairly decent Largemouth Bass population. Our Blue Gill and Crappie are stunted. We can help this by doing two things: keep or destroy ALL pan fish under 4 inches and release 7-8" panfish. You might also see us out there scooping up the overpopulated Carp. Anglers catching carp could help us by destroying ANY size carp that are caught. There's talk of having a fishing contest this summer to encourage more fishing.

### **Fountain**

Our lake is beautiful! Some association members have shown interest in having a fountain north of the island. The fountain would create an aesthetic water feature. We think it's worth pursuing if the membership is interested, especially those who might not want the sound of a fountain. There would be an initial cost of purchasing the fountain and getting electric to it AND monthly electric cost during the warmer months.